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Adelaide Institute special on world economic concerns

>>Banks using Quantitative Easing - QE - will not build a US economy, but with the QEs the US speculators will buy up overseas assets. What a scam!- AI<<

- continued from Newsletter No 544:

Kathleen Wells: So what we are talking here is ethnic loyalties. So are you saying that ethnic ...

Jeffrey Blankfort: We're talking about a kind of tribalism that, even though these particular Jewish activists were anti-Zionist (they didn't believe in a Jewish state), they became very defensive when it came to criticizing Israel specifically. And this is one of the reasons you had members of Congress who were very adamant about apartheid in South Africa, but when it came to Israel arming apartheid South Africa, they were silent. When it came [to the U.S. arming] the Contras [they spoke out]. But when it came to Israel helping the Contras, they were silent. [When] we had the Iran-Contra hearings, Israel was never named as a country. They were country A.

Kathleen Wells: So let me ask you, are these ethnic loyalties -- or tribalism, as you term it -- taking precedent over defending the rights of Palestinians?

Jeffrey Blankfort: It has. They would deny that this is the case. I have been attacked for suggesting that it is. But I see no other reason, because, I mean, I've been into this 40 years, and when I first came back from my trip to the Middle East (I happen to be Jewish, but I come from a non-Zionist family -- non- Zionist, which later became anti-Zionist) and people I knew who've been active around civil rights, and before there was a civil rights movement, when they heard that I had been with the Palestinians, they went crazy. They literally became like Afrikaners because they had been traumatized by the holocaust. And this feeling of the victimization of Jews in World War II was something that Jews growing up with, including myself, felt very strongly. So the notion of blaming Jews was to them going back to periods of anti-Semitism and playing into a right wing and what they call "a neo-Nazi agenda."

The fact of the matter is, however, that it was a Jewish state, done in the name of Jews, [that] had ethnically cleansed the Palestinians and it was Jewish organizations that were lobbying, not only in the United States, but throughout Western Europe, for continued support of what Israel was doing -- not only ethnic cleansing but all its wars against the Palestinians, against the Lebanese. And whereas Professor Chomsky says, "None of this would have been done without the U.S. authorization," it's simply not true.

As a matter of fact, when Menachem Begin, the Israeli prime minister, annexed the Golan Heights in Syria, Ronald Reagan was on a trip to Europe and it was like [he was] blindsided. Chomsky will also, by the way, point to a situation where the United States was very unhappy and complained when it was discovered that Israel had been selling Falcon radar warning

devices to China without U.S. approval, and there were some U.S. parts in this. Now, Chomsky and his supporters say, "Where was the lobby on this?" And, in fact, the lobby was not informed and felt blindsided. It was very embarrassing for some of the neocons in Washington, like Douglas Feith, one of the instrumental people in giving us the war in Iraq. They felt blindsided by it because the Israelis, who basically have very little respect for their American counterparts -- they had made a deal with China without notifying the Jewish establishment here in this country. So that was an embarrassment on their part, for them. And they were quite upset with their Israeli friends because they weren't notified about it.

There are issues in which the Israeli lobby -- actually, it's more of a hotel or a Leviathan or an octopus -- is not dominant, but it is when it comes to Middle East policies, certainly when it comes to Palestine and pushing toward the war in Iraq, pushing for the war against Iran. Up to now, they haven't succeeded, largely because there are people in the Pentagon and the intelligence agencies that know that a war or attack on Iran would be a global disaster -- not only bad for United States, but bad for the world economy.

Nevertheless, it seems now that the possibilities of an attack on Iran are greater than ever. And this has been at the top of the agenda of the Zionist establishment since the attack on Iraq. You could just go to the AIPAC website, the website of the American Jewish Committee, which is a very important, probably the second most important organization in the Jewish community. It's the foreign policy arm of the Israel lobby with offices in Latin America, Africa, Europe. And they have been lobbying foreign governments for years to take pro-Israel positions. The head of that organization, David Harris, is probably the most well-known American Jew outside the United States. He meets regularly with the heads of state of all the European countries -- our NATO allies -- with Mexico [and] countries in Latin America, Africa, and so on.

If there is going to be a war against Iran, there is no way that it could not be said that it is a war for Israel. As a matter of fact, the United States, since the defeat of George Bush, Sr., has increasingly made Israel's enemies our enemies. So where Hezbollah and Hamas are not American enemies (they're seen as Israel's enemies) they have now become our enemies.

Yet Hezbollah has never [been] proven to have done anything to attack the United States [although] they were accused of being responsible for the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983, where I happened to be at the time. Hezbollah formed as a resistance organization to the Israeli occupation, and there are a lot of questions as to who actually carried out that bombing, but it has never been proven that

Hezbollah did it. Hezbollah has never launched a terrorist attack against the United States, nor has Hamas, and yet those two organizations are now considered to be U.S. enemies because they're essentially Israel's enemies.

Kathleen Wells: We're covering a lot of ground here and I can hear your critics say that you are contending that there is a cabal driving U.S. foreign policy.

Jeffrey Blankfort: When it comes to the Middle East, there is no question about it. It is not only outside of the government. Let's [look at] what it consists of: You have AIPAC; you have the American Jewish Community; you have the Anti-Defamation League, which is quick to call any critic of Israel an anti-Semite. It is actually an organization that has been spying on American leftists since the 1930s, including me and thousands of other political activists, including the NAACP -- virtually every political group that might have an issue around Israel.

We have a group called the Israel Project, which is a propaganda arm of Israel which holds regular events, press conferences in Israel and has 18 members of Congress on its board of directors. Eighteen members of the U.S. Congress on the board of a pro-Israel lobbying group which, of course, is tax exempt [and is not required to register as a foreign agent.]

You have a number of think tanks: the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which was founded by AIPAC in 1985, whose talking heads appear every Sunday, every ... they're on NPR, they're on PBS, and they are never identified as being part of an Israeli lobby institution. The American Enterprise Institute is also a pro-Israel lobby institution. You have the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, which you never hear about, but this has members of Congress, senators, a former CIA chief, Jim Woolsey [who] is on every one of these pro-Israel lobbying groups -- every one of them. You have JINSA, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, founded in 1976, which has about 20 former generals and admirals on its board but also has many of the neocons: Michael Ledeen, Richard Perle, Max Kampelman. These are the ones -- people who are very much involved in fomenting the Iraq war; Paul Wolfowitz. There was PNAC, Project for New American Century from 1997, which called on the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, which had some of the very same people on it -- mostly Jewish neocons -- which is largely a Jewish movement, although not exclusively Jewish.

Fomenting the war on Iraq was done on every single level in the media. You had op-ed pieces written by William Safire in the New York Times; Abe Rosenthal in the Washington Post. You had Kristol, Chuck Krauthammer, and you had Mortimer Zuckerman, who is the owner of the US News and World Report and the New York Daily News, writing op-ed piece after op-ed piece calling for an attack on Iraq. You had Kenneth Pollack, the head of the Brookings Institution Saban Center writing a book called "The Gathering Storm" endorsing the war on Iraq. It is a cabal, and it's not a hidden cabal. It's quite public, except those people who don't want to see it don't look at it. It's like the monkey: see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. This is how the solidarity movement has been when it comes to this cabal.

0:53:19 Kathleen Wells: You've written a piece titled "A War for Israel." I want to touch on that piece, because last week* the last combat soldier left Iraq, and so many Americans -- not all, but many Americans -- are asking what was the war in Iraq about? And many will answer it was about oil. Give us your thoughts about that.

0:53:45 Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, it's interesting. There is no record of oil companies wanting a war in Iraq. What the oil companies want is stability. They would like to have been able to purchase oil from Saddam Hussein, who would have liked to have sold it to them.

In fact, the same thing with Iran. Conoco, a major American oil company, had to cancel a contract with Iran under pressure from the Zionist lobby. The oil companies need stability [where they get their resources]. Their profits are guaranteed. They'd have an arrangement with Saddam Hussein like they would have with Saudi Arabia or with Kuwait. So the fact of the matter is that the war in Iraq threatened the stability of the oil companies' [sources]. And it's interesting that President George Bush, Sr., his Secretary of State James Baker, and his National Security Council -- excuse me, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft -- all of whom had closer ties to the oil industry itself than did Bush or Cheney -- they opposed the war on Iraq because they thought it would destabilize the region and would bring the Shi'a into power in Iraq, which would then make Iraq closer to Iran.

Now, what's happened after the war is that the major oil contracts have gone, not to American companies, but to China, for example. The largest contract for oil in Iraq went to China, and that was based on a contract that was, ironically, signed with China during the reign of Saddam Hussein.

Now why was this a war for Israel? I actually wrote this in 2004, and there's much more evidence to that effect today. There was a plan put forth by an Israeli political analyst named Oded Yinon in the 80s.

The idea was to divide the Arab countries, including Iraq, into their confessional states, making several confessional states based on religion. So instead of having a country called Iraq, you would have a Shi'a Iraq, a Kurdish Iraq, and a Sunni Iraq. That would be designed to weaken Israel's Arab enemies, and Iraq was seen as a major threat to Israel.

Another reason was Israel also wanted to see the U.S. as an occupying force in the Middle East, just like it is, so the U.S. could then use Israeli "expertise" in occupying Palestine to occupy Iraq. And many of the same techniques that Israel has used to occupy both Lebanon in the past and to occupy the occupied territories in West Bank and Gaza were used by the United States in Iraq. Also, if the United States was occupying an Arab country, it would be less prone to criticize Israel for doing the same thing. And we saw there has been far less criticism by the U.S. government since 2003 than before in terms of what it was doing in the occupied territories.

0:58:03 Jeffrey Blankfort: Also, in 1995, you had a group of neocons -- among them Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, and Meyrav Wurmser, who wrote a paper called "A Clean Break." But this was for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, calling on Israel to get rid of the regime of Saddam Hussein and stop peace talks with the Palestinians. Netanyahu did not adopt that position, but these very same neocons then came into the administration of George W. Bush -- W, Junior -- with the same policies to get rid of Saddam Hussein [as did] the Project for a New American Century.

Now, it's interesting in the First Gulf War, George Bush, Sr., was criticized by the Zionist establishment and its friends in the media for not dethroning Saddam Hussein. And this was when the neocons turned on Bush because they thought Israel's main enemy in Iraq was going to be eliminated and there would be regime change there that would be more favorable to Israel and would reinstate the oil line that used to go from Iraq [to] Haifa. This was probably not going to

happen. But in any case, they believed that Israel would benefit from the getting rid of Saddam Hussein.

1:00:07 Kathleen Wells: But why did they believe that? Give me one sentence as to why they believe regime change in Iraq would benefit Israel?

1:00:18 Jeffrey Blankfort: They saw Iraq as the most significant foe and threat to Israel -- the largest Muslim Arab state. Egypt is now out of contention because of the Camp David agreement, and Iraq was considered to be a major threat. The Zionist lobby tells that they didn't really want us to attack Iraq; they wanted to attack Iran, but statements by Israeli officials, including Shimon Perez, called on the U.S. to dethrone Saddam Hussein, because by eliminating Saddam Hussein and hopefully breaking Iraq into a Shi'a, Kurdish, and Sunni states, they would eliminate Israel's major threat in the Arab world.

Iran is not an Arab country, and for years Israel's foreign policy had been based on making alliances with non-Arab regimes in the region such as Turkey, Iran, and the Kurds. And so they had a long, very close relationship with Iran under the Shah. Despite the statements made by Khomeini and Iranian leaders, we saw that during Iran-Contra, that the Iranians and the Israelis were dealing arms. And Turkey now, of course, has made close ties to Iran, and this has put the U.S. in a bind, because Turkey has been a real strategic asset to the United States since World War II. And the Israel lobby is pushing for the United States to break that relationship with Turkey, because Turkey is not bending to Washington's wishes or Israel's wishes when it comes to Iran or to the Palestinians.

1:02:19 Kathleen Wells: And you're saying that Israel -- the Jewish lobby -- is pushing for the United States to break with Turkey? Is that what you just stated?

1:02:29 Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, the Israel lobby has gone so far as to get 87 senators to sign a letter to President Obama calling for the Turkish charity that sponsored the Gaza flotilla (the last one) to be put on the terrorist list by the United States, which would be a major attack on Turkish sovereignty, because this particular charity, IHH, is the most important Turkish charity [and close to Turkey's ruling party]. Turkey has told Israel that unless Israel apologizes for the murder of eight Turks and one Turkish-American on board the Mavi Marmara, Turkish-Israel relations will not be restored. And Israel refuses to apologize, so the Zionist establishment and its friends in the media are pushing for the U.S. to break with Turkey. But Turkey is an essential part of U.S. imperial policy and U.S. regional policies since World War II, whereas Israel has been, as I say, more of a liability. Right now Israel, by provoking Turkey and by pushing its agents in the United States, the Zionist establishment, to break with Turkey, is causing a major problem for the United States. Now the United States has been telling Turkey that it has to toe the Israel line; otherwise, it's going to have a problem with the United States. But Turkey doesn't need the United States as much as the United States needs Turkey.

1:04:20 Kathleen Wells: And you said that 87 senators have signed a letter?

1:04:25 Jeffrey Blankfort: They did send a letter, about a month ago, to President Obama, calling for the IHH, the Turkish charity, to be put on the terrorist list. And they're very upset that it hasn't happened to date.

1:04:39 Kathleen Wells: And this letter was drafted by whom again?

1:04:42 Jeffrey Blankfort: It was probably drafted by AIPAC. Before President Obama had his first meeting with Netanyahu [in 2009], he received a letter on May 9, signed --

he received actually two letters : one from three-quarters of the Senate and the other from three-quarters of the Congress, in which they called on him, when he met with Netanyahu, not to put any pressure on Netanyahu. And the pdf, the file sent to [members of] Congress [for their signatures], was called "AIPAC letter." Not a single U.S. newspaper published this story other than in a blog on the Washington Post, when Al Cayman wrote, he said, "Curiously, when we opened the attachment, we noticed it was named AIPAC letter, Hoyer Canter, May 2009 pdf."

1:05:47 Kathleen Wells: And so it was signed by Hoyer -- Senator Hoyer, Congressman Hoyer -- and Congressman Canter.

1:05:55 Jeffrey Blankfort: Right.

1:05:55 Kathleen Wells: So this is ... You have Congresspersons across the aisle, Republicans and Democrats coming together on one issue, and the issue being Israel.

1:06:07 Jeffrey Blankfort: This has historically been the case. And not only that, in that congressional recess a year ago, Congressman Hoyer, who is the House Majority Leader -- he's not just an ordinary congressman -- he led a group of thirty Democrats, just after Cantor had led a group of twenty-five Republicans to go to Israel, where they met with Netanyahu, gave press conferences shown on Israeli television, and Steny Hoyer gave his press conference -- by himself -- in which he took the position of Israel against the U.S. President when it came to [Jewish] settlement in Jerusalem.

Now, were a congressman doing this for any other country besides Israel, it might be called treason. But not only was this not reported here in the United States, it was also ignored by those who say that they support the Palestinian struggle here in the United States. This was online. I actually played Steny Hoyer's comments for my radio audience so they could see what I was talking about.

1:07:23 Kathleen Wells: You're saying it's not reported. So talk to me about the media when you say things are not being reported.

1:07:34 Jeffrey Blankfort: The media has been a target of the Zionist establishment since its inception -- since Israel's inception -- because the media is what manufactures the consent of the public to U.S. policies. In the beginning, the Zionist establishment was on the outside looking in. But over the years, it has [built] a media stable in the major newspapers, such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal, whose columns are reproduced all over the United States. So it's not just important that a Charles Krauthammer, for example, writes in the Washington Post. If it was only the Washington Post, it wouldn't be so important, but Krauthammer's columns appear all over the United States. You had William Safire in the New York Times, whose columns appeared everywhere. He was a close friend of Ariel Sharon. He was replaced by David Brooks, another neocon -- Jewish neocon -- whose columns appear everywhere around the country. You have Tom Friedman, the liberal support of Israel, whose columns [in the Times] appear all over the country. You have Jonathan Jacoby of the Boston Globe. You have Richard Cowan in the Washington Post. You don't have anybody anymore who is a critic of Israel writing in a mainstream newspaper. You used to have Anthony Lewis, who is Jewish, who'd write editorials or op-ed pieces for the New York Times critical of Israel. He was replaced by Tom Friedman who never does.

1:09:36 Jeffrey Blankfort: In 1979, the Washington Post was writing a number of articles critical of Israel. So the

Jewish community leadership there complained and demanded that a representative of the Washington Jewish community be allowed to sit in the Washington Post newsroom for a week to watch how it worked. And the Washington Post editor agreed to let that happen. Over the years, the Washington Post went from being a responsible newspaper to being, editorially, a mouthpiece for the Israeli position and for the Israel lobby.

There have been exceptions. Just recently, when I was back in Washington, at the time Netanyahu was also there [and] met with President Obama -- this time President Obama rolled out the red carpet; and Dana Milbank, who is their Washington columnist, wrote a column which he headed "Alliance or Dysfunctional Relationship?" And he wrote how when Netanyahu visited President Obama, White House officials, "instead of flying the U.S. flag, might have flown the white flag of surrender."

1:11:02 Jeffrey Blankfort: He said [that] Tuesday, Obama, "routed and humiliated by his Israeli counterpart, invited Netanyahu back to the White House for what might be called the Oil of Olay Summit. It was all about saving face." And then he writes about "Obama came to office with an admirable hope of reviving Middle East peace efforts by appealing to the Arab world and positioning himself as more of an honest broker. But he has now learned the painful lesson that domestic politics won't allow such a stand." That's pretty heavy.

1:11:35 Kathleen Wells: Yeah, everything you're saying is pretty heavy, and I think that, [given] everything you are disclosing, you know, the charge of being a self-hating Jew is going to be leveled against you.

1:11:47 Jeffrey Blankfort: I've already surpassed that. I've been called an anti-Semite. This is like the last refuge of scoundrels, as far as I'm concerned. [chuckle] Patriotism is the first one. The charge of anti-Semitism in this case is the last. But I've been following this problem for years, and when I started speaking out about the role of the Zionist lobby, I was marginalized. Now, fortunately, there are people speaking out about it. When John Mearsheimer and Steven Walt wrote the book "[The] Israel Lobby and American [U.S.] Foreign Policy," it was a major breakthrough. Of course, they've been called imperialist hawks. They've been called anti-Semites. These are two distinguished university professors. There's nothing, when you read their book, that is anti-Semitic, but it's a way of trying to smear them, and the smears come not ... They come not only from the right-wing, but they come also from the "left-wing," Jews who claim to be anti-Zionist. They call Mearsheimer and Walt imperialist hawks. And there's nothing to back that up.

My position is I'm a human being first and my responsibility is to humanity before it is to my Jewish history -- my Jewish background. That's the way I was brought up. And so, yeah, as far as I'm concerned, those criticisms only reflect the lack of arguments to challenge what I say. They have no arguments so they have to smear me.

1:13:34 Kathleen Wells: So President Obama will be resuming peace talks with President Netanyahu, Palestinian Authority President Abbas, King Abdullah of Jordan, and President Mubarak of Egypt on September 2. Give us your thoughts about these peace talks that are going to be taking place soon.

1:13:56 Jeffrey Blankfort: This reminds me of the comic strip "Peanuts," in which every September, Lucy used to put out the football for Linus to kick. And every time he would go to kick, she'd pull the football away. This game has grown old. There is simply no way, at this point in time, for a kind of solution -- a two-state solution, or even a one-state at this

point -- without severe economic pressure brought to bear on Israel.

There are no pre-conditions for this peace talk. As a matter of fact, I read today that the only pre-condition that the Palestinians had was that Hillary Clinton would say -- would not say -- that there were no pre-conditions, and she went and said there were no pre-conditions. So the Palestinians are miffed because Abbas, who is not legally anything -- his term of office expired more than a year ago. There has not been an election. [Their representation is a fiction.]

He does not even have the support of a substantial part, or even what's left of the Palestinian Authority. A number of important Palestinians in the West Bank did not appear, simply did not show up to take a vote on him going to come and meet with President Obama. That he's coming to meet with Obama [is] because he's been pressured to do that, but Abbas has to be remembered as being one of the people who drafted the Oslo Agreement back in '93, which actually betrayed the Palestinians and turned over part of the land of Palestine to Israel, which is, in fact, against international law, but that's been ignored.

1:15:56 Kathleen Wells: So you're saying President Abbas doesn't have the authority to negotiate peace.

1:16:04 Jeffrey Blankfort: He really doesn't. I mean, he doesn't have the support of the Palestinians. If there would be some incredible deal in which Israel would agree to withdraw to the 1967 borders, he would have some credibility, but he has none. When the Goldstone Report came out criticizing Israel for its brutal behavior, brutal attack on Palestinians in Gaza, Abbas wanted to suppress the report.

1:16:36 Jeffrey Blankfort: I'm saying that the Palestinians don't expect anything in these talks. This is all like a political charade, and it has been in every case.

1:16:48 Kathleen Wells: I was just going to ask you that. And then you mentioned the fact that there are no pre-conditions. In fact, Assistant Secretary Shapiro said last July at the Brookings [Institution] that for the fiscal year 2010 the Obama administration has requested \$2.775 billion in security assistance funding specifically for Israel. And this is the largest request in history -- in U.S. history -- and Congress has ... Go ahead.

1:17:23 Jeffrey Blankfort: Yeah. This is part of a ten-year package that was first negotiated by George W. Bush at the end of his term, but it was signed with President Obama's approval. That amount of money is also not the total amount of money.

For example, President Obama, to gain the favor of the Jewish community, which is now turning on him or certain elements of it are, approved \$205 million for something called the Iron Dome -- a defensive shield for Israel to protect itself against rockets from Hezbollah the next time Israel launches a war on Lebanon, which is considerably more than the United States has offered to Pakistan to help the Pakistanis in what is the largest global disaster in modern times.

The United States has come up with less than \$200 million for Pakistan at this particular point in time. And, in fact, [it] had the Pakistani Army divert waters that would have covered a military base there and which drowned a Pakistani town.

The United States' commitment to Israel is, unfortunately, virtually unbreakable at this point in time, unless there is a mass movement from the American people to change it. It doesn't appear that it's happening, because nobody is really calling for it, even on the side of those who support the Palestinians. Or say they do.

1:19:16 Kathleen Wells: So let me ask you. Since our support -- or Obama's support rather -- the administration's support of Israel is so generous and effective, why is President Obama so unpopular in Israel?

1:19:31 Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, first of all, it begins with his speech in Cairo. Well, maybe that continues. The Israeli public, the Ashkenazi -- the European Jewish public -- is very racist. They're racist against the Ethiopian Jews that emigrated there from Ethiopia. They're racist against dark-skinned Jews, who are really the Arab Jews who emigrated from Arab countries. One of the reasons that the right wing Likud came into power in 197[7] was because the European Ashkenazi Jews who ran the Labor Party looked down on the Jews from the Arab lands, dark-skinned Jews who were indistinguishable physically from Palestinian Arabs, whereas the European Jews were white. I guess they lost their color after leaving ancient Palestine 2000 years ago.

In any case, the racism is a great part of it, the same kind of racism that we see here against Obama on the part of a significant segment of the American public that has nothing to do with his policies. The idea that his name, of course, is Barack Hussein Obama and then he was born to a Muslim father only added to this. We see today that 20 percent of Americans think that Obama is a Muslim.

1:21:02 Kathleen Wells: And he is not, I want to ...

1:21:04 Jeffrey Blankfort: And he's not.

1:21:05 Kathleen Wells: Yes.

1:21:07 Jeffrey Blankfort: But the point is that the Israelis are used to having a President who bends over and kisses the behind of whoever is the Israeli Prime Minister. And that was the case with Bill Clinton. It was the case with George W. Bush. And they expected the same with Obama. The first George Bush, however, was the last President to really stand up to Israel, and he paid for it at election time when he lost to Clinton. He probably ...

1:21:39 Kathleen Wells: Oh, I thought Kennedy was the last President to stand up to ...

1:21:44 Jeffrey Blankfort: No, Kennedy took three positions that were red lines for Israel. One, Kennedy supported the Palestinian "right of return" -- Resolution 194 -- which called for Palestinians as individuals to determine whether they would take compensation or return to their homes in Palestine. Kennedy realized that all Palestinians couldn't return, but he believed a significant number should be allowed to return, and he supported that. Israel was adamantly against that.

President Kennedy was adamantly opposed to Israel's nuclear weapons, both publicly and privately, as he was with the Palestinian "right of return," and he was very upset with the way the Israelis lied to him about what they were doing in Dimona -- that they were building [a] nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes, a propaganda lie that was propagated by the American Zionist Council here in the United States, which they bragged about.

The third position of Kennedy was that his Justice Department, under his brother Bobby, was making a serious effort to get the American Zionist Council, which was a predecessor to AIPAC, to be registered as a foreign agent. And they refused to do so. They kept stalling and stalling until Kennedy was assassinated, and then under Johnson, all these particular campaigns were allowed to die. And Johnson became the first really pro-Israel President we've had. Most of that is not known about Kennedy. Professor Chomsky never writes about it. He doesn't consider it to be important. It would interfere with his position that the United States supports Israel because it's an asset. That's not the way Kennedy saw it.

1:23:44 Jeffrey Blankfort: Now Bush, Sr., in 1991, decided that he wanted to force Israel to come to the peace table. It should be noted that when Bush was Vice President, when Israel bombed the Iraq nuclear reactor, Bush wanted Israel to be sanctioned. He was outvoted by President Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig. When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, Bush also wanted Israel to be sanctioned. Again he was outvoted by Reagan and Haig. This is documented by Moshe Arens, Israel's Foreign Minister at the time, in his book "Broken Covenant: The US Israel Relationship and the Bush Presidency."*

In 1991, when Israel came to Bush and wanted ten billion dollars in loan guarantees from the U.S. government at a time when our economy was hurting, Bush saw this as Israel's way of not engaging in peace talks, and he told Israel ... He asked the Israeli Prime Minister Shamir to postpone his request for four months. Shamir decided he would not do it and he would go over his head to Congress. When Bush Sr. found out and realized that Congress would override his veto of the \$10-billion loan guarantees, he went to the American people [on TV] on September 12, 1991, and [held] a press conference/statement, in which he said, "There are a thousand lobbyists up here on Capitol Hill against little old me." And he told the American public the amount of money that each Israeli citizen -- man, woman, and child -- was getting in aid from the United States.

At this time there were a thousand -- at least a thousand -- Jewish lobbyists on Capitol Hill talking to members of Congress about passing the loan guarantee legislation. And so the very next day the polls showed that the American public was behind Bush by 85 percent. This really scared the lobby and members of Congress. And so they retreated. But the head of AIPAC at the time, a man named Thomas Dine, made a statement that September 12, 1991, would be a day that would live in infamy. And from that moment on, even Republicans such as William Safire in the New York Times began attacking Bush over the economy. They wouldn't attack over this issue but over the economy.

And in February of '92, when Bush again would not approve the loan guarantees, they went after him big time. This is all very well documented.

The Congressional Record is filled with speeches attacking the President and supporting Israel. The only person who spoke against the loan guarantees was the late Senator Robert Byrd, but you did not read what he had to say in the American press because the American press by 1992 was parroting essentially the Israeli line.

1:27:17 Jeffrey Blankfort: The failure to get the loan guarantees, at that time, embarrassed Shamir, and he was defeated by Rabin for Prime Minister, and with the November elections rolling around, Bush then agreed to give loan guarantees to Israel while deducting the amount of money that was being spent on the settlements. Bush was adamantly against the Jewish settlements; he wanted to freeze on the settlements. He did not want any Russian Jews going to the settlements.

1:27:49 Kathleen Wells: Hasn't Obama been trying to impose a settlement freeze on Netanyahu?

1:27:54 Jeffrey Blankfort: He did in the beginning, but, unfortunately, he found out that Congress was not behind him. And unlike at the time when the first George Bush did it, there was nobody writing editorials or op-ed pieces in the American press that was supporting it. So in a sense he found himself out on a limb spending political capital that he could not afford to spend. When you have the U.S. Congress supporting the

position of a foreign government and that being ignored by those who criticize our government, it's quite an astonishing situation. *(The book title is Broken Covenant: American Foreign Policy and the Crisis Between the U.S. and Israel.)

Kathleen Wells: I interview members of Congress. Do you think I can get any members of Congress to sit down and have an interview with me about this issue?

Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, you could probably get ex-members of Congress. Once somebody is out of Congress, they're usually more willing to talk about it. Lynn Woolsey in Marin County told a group of visiting constituents, including my sister a couple of years ago, that half the people in Congress are afraid of AIPAC or they hate AIPAC, and they're intimidated by AIPAC.

And then Congressman Henry Waxman from Los Angeles, who's the liberals' darling but is a hatchet man for AIPAC within Congress, told Woolsey that if somebody opposed her in the Democratic primary who's a serious candidate, they would support that person because of a couple of votes she had taken against the AIPAC position.

And we have Maxine Waters, now under investigation in Los Angeles for a charge that is nothing compared to what so many members of Congress have done to enrich their own pocketbooks. But Maxine Waters made a couple of mistakes. Back in, actually, 1991, when Congress was supporting loan guarantees for Israel, she tried to circulate a petition among her fellow members of Congress for loan guarantees for American cities at a time when the economy was hurting. She only got 38 signatures, and then under pressure, she pulled it. That was also never reported in [the] American media, but I did report it in my Middle East Labor Bulletin.

Then in 2004, when Cynthia McKinney was running to get back into Congress, Maxine Waters went to Atlanta, Georgia, to speak on behalf of McKinney, where I interviewed her, and recently she has taken some votes that AIPAC doesn't like. And so now she is in their crosshairs or the crosshairs of the House Ethics Committee, which might as well be speaking for the Israel lobby.

Kathleen Wells: Why do you say that? Why do you say the House Ethics Committee is speaking for the Israeli lobby?

Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, because there are a number of unethical positions that have been taken by members of Congress who are very strong supporters of Israel over the years who have not found themselves targeted. I mean, when you find members of Congress, particularly in the Senate Banking and Finance Committee, getting millions of dollars in contributions from the savings and loans and banks, and so on, and becoming millionaires by the time they get out of Congress, some real questions need to be asked, but they're never asked.

Kathleen Wells: Haven't you written a book or a pamphlet called, "If Americans Only Knew?" Did you write something like that?

Jeffrey Blankfort: No. Actually, If Americans Knew is a website -- excellent website -- which has some of my articles and information about how the Zionist lobby influences United States politics and the media. If Americans Knew is run by an activist named Alison Weir, and I recommend that to all of your listeners.

Kathleen Wells: Speak to me about how the American labor unions have been influenced by the lobbies.

Jeffrey Blankfort: One of the cornerstones of the support for Israel in this country has been the American labor unions, which were predominantly Jewish in leadership because of Jewish activity in labor unions in the 30s and 40s.

So they were early supporters of the State of Israel. And it was interesting, in 1983 there was an article in the Hadassah Courier -- Hadassah being the leading Jewish women's organization -- which began, as I recall, saying in the lobby of the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, there is a bust of Golda Meir, the former Prime Minister of Israel, and that's not surprising because, next to the organized Jewish community, the strongest support for Israel has been from American labor unions. And the article goes on to talk about the millions of dollars in State of Israel bonds that the American labor unions have purchased with their members' dues, but their members aren't aware of this. The article, by the way, was written by Wolf Blitzer, who is a former staff member of AIPAC, now frequently seen on CNN. He also wrote for the Jerusalem Post. What happens is you have about 1,700 labor unions who have invested in State of Israel bonds, which obliges them to be lobbyists for Israel on the basis that, as long as the Israeli economy is in good shape, their bonds are in good shape; but if the Israeli economy will go south, so will their investments. The Israeli bond corporation, which is part of the Israel government, has sold State of Israel bonds to about half the states in the union, to many, many pension funds, and most of their members are not aware of it. It is very difficult to get this information -- who exactly owns what and how much -- unless you have an inside or an in with these organizations.

Kathleen Wells: How did you become aware of it?

Jeffrey Blankfort: When I read this article in 1983 by Wolf Blitzer, it was what encouraged me to accept the suggestion of my friend, Steve Zeltzer -- who is also Jewish, a labor union activist -- to form the Labor Committee on the Middle East and start doing research on the labor unions' ties with Israel. And they are very, very strong.

The AFL-CIO is the lone international labor union that has not taken a position supporting Palestinian workers. They are very close to the Israeli Labor Federation, Histadrut, which is discriminating against Palestinian workers and is historically part of the Israeli problem. They were the main organization that organized the businesses and industries of pre-state Israel. It also had close ties with South Africa during the apartheid regime.

Kathleen Wells: You've mentioned that you disagree with Chomsky's views regarding the boycott, divestment and sanction tactics/strategies. Recently, I know that California launched a BDS campaign. Elaborate on how you and Chomsky differ and the recent campaign launched in California.

Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, actually, I believe Professor Chomsky endorses the campaign launched in California recently to get on the ballot next year. What Chomsky opposes is Israel itself being a target for sanctions -- Israeli companies, Israeli cultural -- actors, actresses, musicians, and so on -- academics. This boycott ... A boycott of Israel totally has been called for by representatives of Palestine's ... Palestinian civil society.

They believe that this should be the same kind of boycott that was inflicted on South Africa and helped to end apartheid there. What Professor Chomsky and many of those who support him and live in this country believe [is] that the boycott divestments and sanctions should only be targeted on companies and businesses that invest or are active in the occupied territory that participate in the oppression and occupation of the Palestinians. So the question is: Is Israel allowed to get off the hook? And the Palestinian civil society says no.

Professor Chomsky believes that for Americans to support that position is hypocritical because they should be calling for a boycott of the United States, since Professor Chomsky believes that Israel only does actions that are authorized by the United States and that Israel is not the main culprit but the United States is. And I beg to differ with him on that.

Also, he believes that those who support targeting Israel are actually harming the Palestinian cause -- that includes the Palestinian themselves -- because this information, this attitude, would be used by hardliners within Israel and the United States to damage the Palestinian cause. There's been no evidence of that, and he gives no example of that.

So this is an important difference between Professor Chomsky and I, between Professor Chomsky and the Palestinian Civil society. Many organizations are calling for an international boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel, which is supported around the world by a number of trade unions, a number of cultural actors and actresses -- people who've been involved in the antiapartheid work and see the same kind of struggle taking place in trying to bring Israel to its knees.

Kathleen Wells: So California is the first state in the United States that has launched a BDS campaign.. Talk to me ... Give me some specifics how this program, this campaign, will be launched.

Jeffrey Blankfort: As I understand it, it was launched in Los Angeles by a group of people, pro-Palestinian supporters, and the idea is to let the American or the California citizenry vote as to whether state pension funds in California should be required to divest from investments that they have in Israel that benefits Israel's occupation of Palestine. Not Israel per se, but Israel's occupation of Palestine.

They need 400,000 signatures to get it on the ballot next year, and it will be the first kind of a campaign of its type and what is ... It will be mighty opposed by the Israel lobby and probably by all of the nation -- nationwide media, not just California media. And we expect to see all kinds of money and activity coming in to try and stop this event, but if we could get 400,000 signatures to put this on the ballot -- it is a possibility to educate the public about this issue in a way they've never been educated before.

Kathleen Wells: Now, when you make this distinction between they're not campaigning against Israel per se, but rather Israel's occupation of Gaza ...

Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, no, occupation of the West Bank. And of course, it's not officially of Gaza, but Gaza has a large prison camp which they control. It's essentially ... it's the same, but they have no investments in Gaza. But there are a number of American businesses, companies -- Caterpillar, Motorola, IBM, Intel -- have investments in the occupied territories, do business there. There are millions of dollars involved in investing in Israel -- in the occupied territories -- and so the idea is to cause those institutions that have those investments to divest them. I think they're talking about the state institutions, not private institutions.

Kathleen Wells: Oh, state institutions.

Jeffrey Blankfort: Right.

Kathleen Wells: I'm just trying to figure out how you make this distinction between not campaigning against Israel per se, as opposed to Israel's occupation of the West Bank. How do you draw that distinction? I'm not clear on it.

Jeffrey Blankfort: I don't actually draw that distinction. Probably to get more people to sign this, it would seem that Israel itself is not being punished but just Israel's occupation. However, supporters of Israel will treat this as if it was Israel itself because they are now propagating a campaign around

the world saying that the boycott, divestment and sanction movement is a movement to de-legitimize Israel. And, of course, there's nothing in any of the statements that say that. What is being de-legitimized is a country that occupies other people's land for decades, and if Israel has a problem with its own legitimacy, so do many other people, among them myself.

Kathleen Wells: Because to say it's not against Israel, but Israel is occupying the West Bank, so I don't see...

Jeffrey Blankfort: Yes. So the idea is to only punish that aspect of Israel, those investments that are directly in the West Bank, those companies that have businesses or factories in the West Bank, or those companies that produce materials, like Caterpillar and their bulldozers that are used to demolish Palestinian homes; they have a special bulldozer for that. And so there's been a long campaign, which has not been very successful so far, to get Caterpillar to not sell its bulldozers to Israel. And this is kind of an escalation of that.

Kathleen Wells: And then how will California residents be involved? What ... say, assuming they get the requisite number of signatures, what is that? 400,000?

Jeffrey Blankfort: Something like that.

Kathleen Wells: Yeah. And they get those signatures and then will it be California residents asking that their pension funds ...

Jeffrey Blankfort: There are a number of state pension funds, and those pension funds were the ones that would have to divest. That would also include the universities, I presume. I'm not sure of all the details. I haven't read the fine print. But I assume any state institution that invested in any business that did business in the occupied territories or contributed to enhancing or maintaining the occupation would be a legitimate target. And they would have to divest those funds if the voters of California approved that.

Kathleen Wells: Now we talked dramatically about the pro-Israel influence with Democrats in D.C. Elaborate on this notion how this influence -- this pro- Israel influence -- in D.C. is also ... whether or not it's a bipartisan effort?

Jeffrey Blankfort: There is probably no more bipartisan effort on a critical issue -- not a Mother's day resolution or a resolution to thank our veterans. There is no other issue in which both political parties have historically marched in locked step with one another. So you have Senator Boxer here in California arm-in-arm with former Senator Jesse Helms. The most right-wing racist senators, congressmen, and the most liberal of Democrats march arm-in-arm when it comes to pledging their allegiance to Israel. The Democrats get the most money, but the Republicans, now, in more recent years, get money from Christian-Zionists, who are even more zealous than so many Jewish Zionists about Israel maintaining every inch of the West Bank and even more.

But what happens if you are a Republican and you step out of line and you criticize Israel, you will be targeted. Then the three famous cases of Charles Percy -- Senator Charles Percy of Illinois, who was very pro-Israel -- I mean he was also ... believed the Palestinians should have their rights.

When he, in 1981, voted for what they call the AWACS, the Advanced Air Warning System, to sell this advanced warning system to Saudi Arabia which would protect it from hostile attack, President Reagan lobbied personally to get Charles Percy to change his vote. And Charles Percy changed his vote and voted for AWACS to sell to Saudi Arabia and it passed. And the Israel lobby organization - AIPAC -- then targeted Charles Percy -- deliberately, openly, publicly -- to get some

congressman [Paul Simon] to run against him. And they succeeded and Percy was defeated.

There was another Illinois congressman, Paul Findley, who also spoke favorably of the Palestinians. He later wrote a book about it called "They Dared to Speak Out". He was also targeted. "They Dared to Speak Out" was a story of what happens to people in this country -- not just politicians, but teachers and so on -- who have dared to publicly speak out against the Israel lobby and the policies of the State of Israel. Finally, there was my lawyer, Pete McCloskey, a marine veteran from California who openly supported the Palestinians [in Congress]. He supported Israel, he supported two-state solution before it was acceptable. There was a time when anyone who supported two states was considered anti-Israel. Twenty years ago, if you called for two states, you were anti-Israel. Pete McCloskey called for two states; he was targeted. So Republicans know, just like Democrats, that if they speak out against Israel or are critical of Israel policy, they are going to be just as much of a target as a Democrat.

So what you see are these 400 to four votes, 99 to one in the Senate. The one now is dead -- the late Bobby Byrd, Robert Byrd. So the votes now will be 100 to nothing when it comes to pro-Israel positions. It's a pretty ugly situation. There's no other issue that is of such importance to America and to the world in which both houses of the U.S. Congress come together. No parliament in France, England, anywhere else is like this, even those countries that support Israel. There's nothing comparable to this, because they don't have the money in their politics that we have in ours.

Kathleen Wells: So you're saying that it used to be 99 to one with the late Senator Byrd being the only senator that would vote against Israel on legislation?

Jeffrey Blankfort: Or any issue that might involve Israel, critical of Israel. Byrd was the only one who would do that. He was well-liked and well-loved. He brought a lot of money back to West Virginia. He took care of West Virginia very well and so he was not the kind of person that AIPAC would think of attacking. They just ignored him. He would make statements on the floor of Congress critical of Israel, and the newspapers would not publish them.

Kathleen Wells: Okay. This is my last question, I promise. What prescriptions can you offer for an effective pro-Palestinian movement?

Jeffrey Blankfort: We need to recognize that, as someone once said, "All politics is local," and the Israeli-Palestine issue is no exception. When we have schools firing teachers, when we have healthcare limited, when we don't have universal healthcare, when we have serious economic problems in all our communities, all our localities, the notion that we are contributing, giving money to Israel ... They're not buying these weapons with their money. That we are giving them the money to buy these weapons [is outrageous]. And we are fighting wars that they want -- sending our soldiers to fight and die and kill innocent people on an agenda that was Israel's before it was ours.

Members of Congress [who] support that they should be targeted and exposed with the speeches that they have made. It's all available online. You go to the AIPAC website, aipac.org, and you look at all the letters that have been sent to various persons by members of Congress over the years, it's all there. It's not secret. And those members of Congress should be held to account. And I'm sure, for example, if the American public could have heard the speech of Andrew Shapiro, which I played for my listeners -- and it enraged them -- to the Brookings Institution about the U.S.-Israel

relationship, they would be enraged. But the point is we have to speak to ordinary Americans who have no vested interests in the outcome in the Middle East, either Jewish or Arab Americans. This is an issue that is the responsibility of all Americans. This is what needs to be done and, of course, Israel itself should be targeted. Israeli institutions should be targeted.

We didn't bring up the example of the USS Liberty, the ship that was attacked and [almost] sunk by the Israelis in 1967 in which 34 sailors were killed and 171 wounded [during] more than an hour of attacks, and the survivors were not allowed to talk about it by President Johnson under penalty of court martial. The American public doesn't know about that. But my experience is, when I talk to people about the Liberty, they do get angry, and they would get angrier if they knew what Israel has been doing with our support. I would like to bring up the role of certain members of Congress who consider themselves to be agents of Israel rather than United States. And there was one I wrote about named Steven Solarz, who back in 1980 sent his constituents very proudly a letter in which he wrote ... It was titled, "Delivering for Israel," and I quote. He said, "It is a story of how legislative maneuvering and political persistence managed to prevail over physical constraints and bureaucratic resistance." This is how they got an additional \$660 million in foreign aid for Israel and how, he said, "given that this was an election year." He also wrote to his constituents, largely Jewish at the time, I quote. He said, "We also gently suggested to the Secretary Cyrus Vance that we were prepared to take the fight for increase in aid to the floor of Congress.

That it might put the administration in an election year in a bad light with some of its most important constituencies if it would be seen to be opposing in an effort to help Israel." And then, shortly thereafter, Secretary Vance [said] the administration had decided to recommend an increase of from \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion in additional military assistance, but to keep at the same level -- \$785 million -- the amount of economic assistance for Israel. So an additional half of a billion dollars of U.S. money went to Israel as a result of the pressure of Steven Solarz and his fellow agents for Israel in the U.S. Congress in 1980, when the U.S. economy was in the doldrums as it is today.

Kathleen Wells: As it is today.

Jeffrey Blankfort: And you have the same thing happening today, 30 years later, except Solarz is no longer in Congress. We have Howard Berman. We have Charles Schumer. We have Jane Harman. We have Henry Waxman. We have Eric Cantor. We have Eric Weiner, Eliot Engle, Gerald Nadler, and I could keep on and on and on.

Kathleen Wells: And why hasn't there been a national campaign to educate Americans about U.S. aid to Israel and an attempt to end it?

Jeffrey Blankfort: Well, there is an organization. There are campaigns, but they're not conducted with enthusiasm, and they don't have the enthusiastic support of people in the solidarity movement who believe that the problem is U.S. imperialism and not Israel.

In their slogans, they keep repeating, "End the occupation. End the occupation." I would say that the majority of Americans, if you ask them on the street, and you say "End the occupation," they won't know what you're talking about. But if you say, "Stop aid to Israel" and you tell them how much money is involved, particularly at this point in time, they would put their heads up, and they would wonder, and they would be concerned, especially when after-school programs

are being cut and when their teachers are no longer able to get jobs. And when they themselves are out of work.

Kathleen Wells: Well, I think we've covered quite a bit, don't you?

Jeffrey Blankfort: I think we have. Kathleen Wells: [laughter] So on that note, I want to thank you for taking the time to speak with me and ...

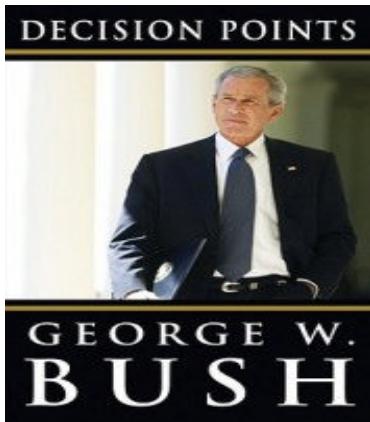
Jeffrey Blankfort: Kathleen, it has been my pleasure.

Kathleen Wells: Okay, thank you very much.

Jeffrey Blankfort: Thank you so much. Take care.

Kathleen Wells: Okay, bye.

<http://www.racetalk.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/11/JBPART1.pdf>; <http://www.race-talk.org/?p=5833>



Decision Points

- George D Bush's autobiography released on 9 November 2010;**
- Bush admits he authorized torture**
- does that surprise anyone?**

<http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/features/decision-points-by-george-w-bush/>



The thoughts and writings of Prof. Eugene Narrett

The Burning Sky of Western Culture

<http://israelendtimes.com/blog/2010/10/26/the-burning-sky-of-western-culture.htm>

Update on the Mandate, or Edom and Israel

This extensively revised essay moves from geopolitics to analysis of cultural principles, contrasts and development.

William Hague, the Foreign Secretary of the Great Britain arrived in Israel November 03 and summoned top Israeli Defense and Intelligence officials to share with him Israel's plans regarding Iran. His attitude reminded observers of the continuing British ambition to rule or displace Israel and make it a stepping stone to its Arab Federation. British arrogance, typified in the frequent correlation of the diplomatic visitations of Israel by Tony Blair and Gerry Adams seems to be inbred.^[1]

The outrage in Israel is not only a response to British hauteur and imperial attitudes whose handling it mostly has outsourced to American officials. A key ingredient of British hostility is the danger it poses to top Israeli officials by threatening to arrest and prosecute them for 'crimes' against so-called Palestinians and other terrorists or guerillas who prey on Jews. In other words, Britain tries to leverage the 'peace process' (expulsion of Jews from Judea and Samaria) by blackmailing Israeli defense officials who at times, even if belatedly and inadequately, order retaliation against enemies. Jewish self-defense, let alone preemptive defense is being rendered illegal, bringing danger of indictment and jail in Britain and some European venues under the rubric of "universal jurisdiction," a color of law penumbra that great powers decide when and how to apply. High government officials ordinarily grant their counterparts enormous latitude in matters of state policy; — just review the sentences, and all the commutations of sentences stemming from the Nuremberg

trials. So the British animus here, and the European deviation from diplomatic norms is particularly striking and familiar. It also raises memories, which left-wing Israelis would like to keep suppressed of those decades when their British controllers did so much to help the Germans achieve the solution to Britain's problem of how to establish a large Arab protectorate in the Middle East. This was part of the larger solution of Europe-Esau's problem with the Jews, the witnesses to the fact that Edom's cult was derivative and irrational.

Hague's descent from on high makes clear that this policy, and the attitudes within it, have not changed. To the British governing cadres, Israel is a dependency, a nuisance and even an imposter not only in geopolitics. How can this be so? The intense condescension and contempt may reside in a British mania that they are the true Israelites, descendants of the "Lost Tribes." Some advance the Hebrew-English pun, *Brit Ish* ("covenant man") as proof. Indeed, this nonsense once was current in Scotland and appears prominently in a great novel [2]. Further back, it provides cultural-geographic structure for the psycho-history of William Blake's antinomian epic of unbound imagination, *Jerusalem*, *Emanation of the Giant Albion* in which the latter, England, haloed, finally achieves his prophetic status and, as a bearded elder physically presses the nubile *Jerusalem*, his formerly alienated wife, against his body and loins [3]. It is apt that for Albion this appropriation means "all forms identified" as 'he' integrates and absorbs his anima, "the maiden daughter of Zion."

Was he aware that were his fiction fulfilled the offspring of the union would be Jewish? All of Esau's games of displacement lead to his self-undoing. He cannot do without his "red, red stuff," the blood of war and passion of inexorable appetites. A master of trapping with armed might and even more with the mouth, with diplomatic games [4], Esau's dominion is "the angry red planet," a game simultaneously of conquest and self-pity, "the outer limit of wickedness" and, in time "a desolation forever." This is the original source of the Wasteland trope in Western poiesis and cultural dynamics. In any case, Blake's famous print shows what Britain keeps doing to Israel, nailing, re-defining, subordinating and absorbing her into its confused identity. This is not only a British obsession but a European one: Esau will never desist from his desire to be Israel despite having spurned his birthright or in historic terms, despite being a derivative and imperial culture whose rites are irrational and based in magical aesthetic transformations of self. Europe-Europa is the fictional nationalism, abducted from the Middle East that seeks to displace its host and model. Ultimately, it is an obsessive and irrational project, an attempt at identity theft and transformation more than economics. It is not only about power but its root: identity confusion and formation whose strivings power sub serves. It will never go away until Europe's "evening fire" [5] burns itself out. He further denoted the cult of Esau as "a hybrid product of decay." [6] As Nietzsche surmised, it will burn itself out by pursuing its endless effort to displace the Jews and their book "with the claim that it contains nothing more than Christian doctrines and it belongs to Christians as the true Israel. In this context and specifically in regard to the British role one notes the blatant holocaust denial of Anglo-Catholic Bishop Richard Williamson. Aside from the spurious technical questions, the logic is that if the Jews are not really Israel, [7] how could there be a holocaust. The Church concentrates the West's identity theft and displacement. But this game destroys boundaries of self and of all coherence thus generating terror. As was noted long ago by both Rebecca and Ishmael, "Esau, he is unstable." [8] Thus his grand game now impoverishes and scrambles the world and truth itself. The process will end when his fiction, like "appetite, the universal wolf" [9] confronts and consumes its own hollowness and collapses, a parasite that consumes its host; a master or metamorphosis that disdains all boundaries but its own arbitrary imperial ones.

For Esau this displacement is a necessity of its being, it is obsessive as repeatedly shown by unrepentant haters like Williamson and by the tepid or transient response to them. It reveals itself also in the boycotts of Israeli professors by British Universities, a shutting down of discourse that exposes the actual content of Western education: denial of the true source; hatred and hysteria directed at the fathers of whatever is not barbaric or arrogant in Western civilization. The historicity, [10] reason and strong but simple joy are sources of endless envy to the West whose obsession with "fun" barely conceals the desperate that arises from a deep in-authenticity. Envy indeed is a terrible monster. [11] The more attempts to post-date the Tanach by forms of the discredited "documentary hypothesis" the more truth sprouts from the earth demonstrating the antiquity and rootedness of Israel. Mr. Hague reportedly told M Netanyahu and FM Lieberman that Britain would move quickly to amend the blackmail via "universal jurisdiction" of Israeli officers and diplomats [12]. The British Foreign Secretary acknowledged that it would be a loss for Britain if its ability to partner with Israel's technology

was impaired. Messages sent and delivered but as Nietzsche observed, diplomats are consummate actors [13]. Their natural stance is a pose, a gesture that entraps, "that captures the eyes and steals the mind" [14]: game is in their mouths. For this reason, the Eternal One who embodies all truths "reigns by taking sovereignty from Esau and his offspring." Freed from the confusion and terror of lies and games, from those who appeal to the senses, "the world will rejoice." [15] So much for the European branch of Esau; if Hillary Clinton or Condi Rice who are said to represent Edom's unique American variant had summoned those Israelis to her office, they would have come promptly if not necessarily with joy. After all, they are free to fly into or out of Washington, New York or Houston anytime as leaders of a loyal and valuable military - technological asset of the Anglo-American leg of the trilateral world system. The orders simply must emerge from Beit Laban, "the White House," Jacob's best friend to be acceptable to the perennial client regime squatting in Jerusalem while it represents, mainly, the interests and attitudes of Caesarea. This is a melancholy fact but appropriate to the age of decadence, egoism, fear and Caesarism, when radical relativist democracy sucks tyranny into its moral and intellectual vacuum. The Holy One leaves Esau to the logic of his delusions. The Eternal One's reign is clear with the defeat of the games and image-work of Esau. As the ephemera, the lies of 'virtual reality are shattered, "the world will rejoice." The heavens and the earth, freed of illusions will rejoice as the fictions of aesthetics, — media and geopolitics - "the nonentities will disappear" [[16]]. The cult of the Wasteland, its burning evening sky and its glorious apocalypse will dissolve. The mystical cult of alienation in which every person stares into a mirror (or screen) and sees their image-ideal, their replacement or virtual self will dissolve. Inheriting and dispelling the mists will be those who are "straight of heart," who know themselves in their deeds, sanctified by tradition and resolute memories in its honor and who thus are free of the "bewildering terrors" of arrogant speeches and theories of "oppression," the mask for those who "know not what they are" and so seek to feed on the identity of others [17]. When the great hunter and trapper, "the universal wolf" that craves "red, red stuff" consumes itself, taking with it its signature myth of the grail with its symbolic avatar and concealing of Israel as the abused host that displaces Israel; when the fiction and images consume the humanity that is Edom's host and the culture, the West that generates them it will vanish and reveal the unclouded truth of Israel and its sublimely simple, everyday joys, wonder and faith. Israel puts if faith and deeds not in chariots, not in horses [18], above all not in imagery or idols of the mirror, stage or media distraction machine but in their antithesis: in the glory of life abundant. Replacing the "foul, cold monster" and "burning evening sky" of "the new idol" of the therapeutic State whose true goal is control and de-humanization will be the restored Jewish people whose "history constitutes a wealth of passions, virtues, decisions, renunciations, fights, and victories of all kinds" that flows "into great spiritual men and works...such as the European peoples cannot produce and never could..." [19]. Then the true Eternal One of wonder and reason, not an *eidolon* of man, will reign and the world will rejoice. Where the controlling State that, like Esau, traps and games ends; the "corporate and collective body" that absorbs the individual into its abstract but police-enforced General Will, leaving the human a *persona ficta* who "will be forced to be free" [20] only when these idolatries and "those who boast by them" dissolve "begins he human being who is not

superfluous" and who is the "rainbow" for humankind, the Jew and Jewish model for mankind.

[1] Debkafile, "Hague's Visit Sparks UK – Israel Clash on Iran, Mid-East, Palestinians" <http://www.debka.com/article/9123/> ; Reports in 2009 suggested that the IRA was infiltrated at high levels by British Intelligence which may have had some role in direction in IRA policies.

[2] Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped* in which Captain Hoseason (itself a take-off of a fine Hebrew name) commands the doomed brig, "The Covenant" and considers himself a "Covenant Man."

[3] William Blake, *Jerusalem: Emanation of the Giant Albion* (1804-20), plate 99

[4] Genesis 25:27-8, "Esav, ish yodea tzayid..." The next quotes are from Malachi 1:4; see also Rashi on Tehillim 120:2-3 and referencing the Genesis verses on Esau's trapping, gaming and deceit.

[5] Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886; NY 1966, translated and with commentary by Walter Kaufmann), page 185 [section 250]

[6] Nietzsche, *The Antichrist* (1888), section 19 in *The Portable Nietzsche* (NY 1968, translation Kaufmann), p. 586

[7] Nietzsche, *The Dawn* sections 84 & 68 in *The Portable Nietzsche* op cit, 80, 77

[8] Midrash HaGadol and Baba Kama 92 on Genesis 27:41 & 28:6-9 re Esav's 'war-gaming' with Ishmael to murder Isaac and Jacob.

[9] William Shakespeare, *Troilus & Cressida* 1.3.120-6

[10] <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/135432> Avi Yellin, "King David Era Pottery Shard Supports Biblical Narrative" see Tehillim 82:3-4 and 72:3 among many parallels, of the verses found.

[11] Herman Melville, *Billy Budd*, chapter 12, on Claggart's conflicted envy of Billy; like the West's grand judicial games, "his conscience was a lawyer to his will" and "his reason...an instrument for effecting the irrational." Melville comments on Claggart, and his culture, "such men are insane."

[12] Elad Benari, "Hershkowitz to Hague: Academic Boycotters Hurt Britain," A-7, 11-05 2010, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/140471>

[13] Nietzsche, *Die Frohliche Wissenschaft*, Part V, section 361, 368 (NY 1954, Kaufmann translation), 316-17, 324-5

[14] Rambam Sefer HaMitzvoth, negative commandment (*lo ta'aseh*) #32; Genesis op cit

[15] Rashi on Tehillim 97-1-2, passim; Rashi on Tehillim (NY 2008, translation R Yisrael Herczeg)

[16] Ibid. Rashi on 97:7; See also Ezekiel 35:14, 38-9, inter alia and Isaiah 2:18.

[17] Quoting Tehillim 97, 73 and in closing the sentence, the 3rd stanza of Yeats' "Sailing to Byzantium."

[18] Tehillim 20:8; "chariots and horses" are understood to refer respectively to Esau and Ishmael.

[19] Friedrich Nietzsche on "the New Idol" of the State, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part I; on the triumph of the Jews, *The Dawn*, section 205, both in *The Portable Nietzsche*, op cit, 162,-3; 89; on "burning evening sky" of European apocalypse, hastened by Jewish leaven see Nietzsche, *Beyond Good & Evil*, Part VIII, section 250 (NY 1966, Walter Kaufmann translation), 184-5

[20] Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract Book I*, chapters 6-7, "The Social Compact" and "the Sovereign" (London 1973, translation G.D.H. Cole), 173-77, passim

Guantanamo my journey – by David Hicks A Review by Dr Fredrick Töben, 20 October 2010

"Anyone who challenges the prevailing orthodoxy finds himself being silenced with surprising effectiveness. A genuinely unfashionable opinion is almost never given a fair hearing." – George Orwell in *Animal Farm*

1. An Extended Introduction

Having myself within the last decade spent time in five different prisons in three countries – Germany, England and Australia – that call themselves 'free and democratic', enables me in some small measure to comment on the much awaited David Hicks book wherein he details his five and a half years spent at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Just published by William Heinemann in October 2010, *Guantanamo my journey*, by David Hicks – ISBN 978 1 86471 158 5 – is a 456-page tome divided into Part One and Part Two that are preceded by a dedication, a basic map of Afghanistan and its neighbouring states, a two-page 'Author's note' and a 4-page 'Introduction', and the book ends with a 2-page list of 'Recommended Reading', 34-pages of 'Endnotes' and a two-page 'Acknowledgements'. In the middle of the book there is a 16-page glossy photo section featuring detailed plans of Hicks' various camps and cell blocks, and a selection of photographs featuring David's early childhood, as a horseman, time spent with the Kosovo Liberation Army – including his saluting the NATO flag, and an explanation of that contentious 'trophy shot' of his aiming a weapon, which some media claimed showed him as an active combatant in Afghanistan aiming a weapon at US or Australian troops. This section concludes with some pictures of public protests for

Hicks' release and two family photos including the wedding shot of David and Aloysia on 1 August 2009.

The 'Author's note', is preceded by a quotation from Abraham Lincoln: 'Truth is generally the best vindication against slander.' Now that's a good start. But why do I worry when I read in the dedication, 'To those who support the rule of law and the concept of justice, who believe that abusive treatment and torture is not the answer and is unacceptable'? I share this expressed sentiment but what I find missing is the authenticity of the author's voice. But more of that later.

The inside dust jacket flaps contain the essence of what would interest a reader: the left flap contains a 137-word sketch of the book's contents:

"In 1999 a young man from suburban Adelaide set out on an overseas trip that would change his life forever. Initially, he was after adventure and the experience of travelling the Silk Road.

But events would set him on a different path. He would be deemed a terrorist, one of George W. Bush's 'worst of the worst'. He would be incarcerated in the world's most notorious prison, Guantanamo Bay.

And in that place where, according to an interrogator in Abu Ghraib, 'even dogs won't live', he was to languish for five and a half years, suffering horror, torture and abuse, while

Australians were told who he was – by politicians, the media and foreign governments.

Everyone had an opinion on him. But only he knows the truth. And now, for the first time, David Hicks tells his story.”

The right flap contains a brief biographical sketch of the book's author:

“David Hicks was born in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1975. After leaving school, he worked as a jackaroo in the Australian outback before settling in Adelaide. Later, he worked as a horse trainer in Japan before witnessing TV reports of atrocities in Kosovo, which motivated him to travel to Albania. Back in Australia, he developed an interest in politics, especially in disadvantaged, oppressed communities. He then embarked on a journey to Kashmir. During the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, he was apprehended by the Northern Alliance and sold to the US military, which then sent him to Guantanamo Bay, where he spent five and a half years in detention before returning to Australia.”

So far so good for enticing a reader to buy this \$A49.99 book. On the back of the dust jacket there is the comment by Lieutenant Colonel Dan Mori, United States Marine Corps, military attorney for David Hicks:

‘David Hicks’s story of endurance through injustice is one that every Australian should hear.’

I can relate to that process of being subjected to an injustice, in my case it is one that comes from my having a German background, which quite involuntarily subjected me to the Holocaust-Shoah nonsense-propaganda that slanderously asserts Germans during World War Two systematically exterminated European Jews in homicidal gas chambers. Such an assertion is horrendously grotesque and sadly, the propagators of this war-time and post-war propaganda have enacted laws within certain so-called ‘free and democratic’ countries that prevent me from questioning any aspect of such allegations – a massive injustice because it is impossible to defend yourself against such allegations, i.e. the allegation that my parents were a part of a murderous death machine during World War Two.

Owing to such background, and with the knowledge I have picked up on the way by challenging those who wish to impose this unique German guilt trip via legal means on to me, I can sense where David Hicks’ writings have been made ‘orthodox’ for local Australian and even global consumption.

This contextualising or embedding an individual’s adventure into a global political framework becomes all the more apparent when I hear in today’s news that the Australian military is going to try Australian soldiers who allegedly killed civilians in Afghanistan. This announcement is much in the Breaker Morant style, where the military did likewise when the South African Boer War came to an end, when Britain and Germany – the Queen and the Kaiser – had settled their differences and the British military wished to come out of this bloody conflict with clean hands. And so they had to find scapegoats within its own ranks, then to set them up – and what better way of doing this than finding the daring heroic individuals who on the battlefield were ordered to follow Rule 303! But Lord Kitchener had to come out of it with clean hands and so two men’s lives needed to be sacrificed. As he faced the firing squad Morant’s final words, whether authentic or not, are a classic: ‘Shoot straight you bastards!’

Hicks certainly did not start out to be a target of injustice because of his Australian background but he became entangled in a legal mechanism that attempted to solidify what had been achieved with the Germans at the end of the war in the military tribunal trials held at Nuremberg during

1945-6. There the fact of Germany’s military unconditional surrender spawned legal principles that to this day shame anyone who claims Nuremberg was just. For example, for anyone to claim in their defence against any allegations made against them that they were following orders became inadmissible – and so the defence crumbled and a guilty verdict was assured.

In this context it bothers me that Geoffrey Robertson, one of Australia’s and one of the world’s greatest human rights lawyers – even lauded by some Iranian academics – claims in his latest book, *The Case of the Pope*, that international law ought to be applied to Catholic Canon Law so that the Vatican can be dismantled as a state and thereby enabling justice to flow to those countless sexual abuse victims. That there is no such thing as ‘international law’, and that law still remains a ‘local’ matter, Robertson would not admit to, and he would quickly point to the ‘good work’ the International Court in Den Hag was doing, without stating that this mainly George Soros-funded court is a victors’ court veiled in the injustices that flowed from Nuremberg’s International Military Tribunal.

Robertson, unsurprisingly, thus fails to acknowledge this important factor in his deliberations on the Papacy’s alleged ‘crimes’. His claim to fame is that he has accepted the 1945-46 Nuremberg War Crimes outcomes as legitimate, and he uses this on which he premises anything he writes, which is a deeply flawed moral and intellectual position.

I sensed that his excursion into lecturing the Catholic Church is thus also flawed, and I am reminded of the difference in mindset that becomes clearer when we recall the role played by Breaker Morant in Britain extraditing itself from a war, and of how the Catholic Church rather elegantly extradited itself from the paedophilia issue by canonising on 17 October 2010 Australian Mary MacKillop. She was a nun who towards the end of the nineteenth century, among other things, reported a priest to the authorities but was then herself excommunicated, and now with the passing of time has been recognized as a much-needed reformer. The Catholic Church is thereby attempting to self-correct itself from within without Robertson, or other outsiders, having any input into the matter.

That the Guantanamo Bay experiment was designed to further legally lock up the Nuremberg injustices was clear to me from the start when I heard that a defendant could not mount any meaningful defence against any of the numerous charges. This process, called a military tribunal process of justice, is what I experienced from 1996 onwards when facing prosecution under the Racial Discrimination Act before the Human Rights Commission and the Federal Court of Australia.

Fortunately, legal opposition within the USA and other countries to have Guantanamo’s legal procedures enshrined within US law failed, and so the Nuremberg legal principles are still open to challenge without that additional hurdle emanating from Guantanamo. Those interested in legally locking up the German mind failed when Guantanamo legal procedures were subjected to US constitutional ideals, and was found to be badly deficient. Of course I could name the individuals who were specifically responsible for this quest but that would go far beyond what I set out to do when I began this review of David Hicks’ autobiography.

Readers who cannot cope with a detailed synthetic approach such as I have adopted in the above deliberations will bemoan the lack of analytic depth in this review. Let me as an aside offer them what will be a further annoying fact, and of which certain perceptive individuals are profoundly aware – when finally Pope Pius XII, is declared a Saint, then because the Jews have labelled him the ‘Holocaust Pope’, this whole World

War Two 'Holocaust-Shoah' history will be a mere example of war-time propaganda that has no reality in space and time.

The homicidal gas chamber lies had become the Jewish state of Israel's primary propaganda weapon, which served only to neutralise the Germans from once again exercising their quest for personal freedom from foreign domination. After all, foreign domination of German national life was indeed the impulse that set off the chain reaction of Germans questing for national autarky during the early twentieth century and after World War One ended, then again during the Great Depression and into the 1930s – all this just on a century ago. The current German chancellor alluded to this problem of German autarky in no uncertain terms when she recently claimed that German multicultural policy of integration had failed. Now, that's a good start for building a New World Order!

2. The Book's Authenticity and Legal Precedent

I have some misgivings about the whole book, perhaps because in my own writing of books it's been hard work and little help from anything like a team of researchers in the background. I recall attending a TBR conference where Gordon Thomas introduced his biography of the Israeli security organisation, Mossad, who then in his address bombastically stated that one Mossad director was a fearful man. When I threw out a comment that I would not fear the man, he replied that I would be a better man than he, Thomas. I replied with a question: 'Why should I fear him?', to which he replied: 'Do you want to take over?'

Caroline Valentine then expressed her reservations about its author's short fuse, and it seemed to make sense that Thomas' book was written by a team of authors. I sense that this has been done with the David Hicks autobiography, and although I have not personally spoken with David I say this for the following reasons:

2.1. When I read the first paragraph of the 'Author's Note':

>The media has long proposed that one of the many questions I should publicly address is, 'What was I doing in Afghanistan?' To those who would ask such a question, I would first answer with a few questions of my own ... What would I have done to make the treatment I endured acceptable? Is there any situation that would warrant such treatment? For that is what the above question provoked in me. Can selected people be treated harshly – either physically, psychologically, politically or legally – because of the allegations aimed at them based on their actions, intentions, beliefs or myriad other excuses? Should anyone be abused in any form, at any time? Is there a crime or accusation that warrants torture? My own set of questions aside, by book will address how I came to Afghanistan and many other topics truthfully, honestly and in full detail – from my birth, to events leading to Guantanamo, what took place there and beyond.<

– I knew that this book had a group of editors who knocked a basic prison inmate's story into shape and gave it an official Australian political justification spin that explained some matters that bothered me for some time.

2.2. I briefly became acquainted with members of the Hicks family, a pioneering family in the Gawler area. Their language use would have influenced David Hicks, and the vocabulary and concepts used in this autobiography immediately indicates to me that someone did the hard slog. The book's 192 Endnotes alone tell me that a team meticulously researched every aspect of David's case, which I, of course, find excellent for the sake of the legal record – but David Hicks' work this is not!

2.3. Another immediate aspect of the Hicks case is that Australian philanthropist, Dick Smith, immediately took David Hicks under his wing and offered him material comfort and protection, which is admirable especially because it enabled David to find a woman soon after release from his Adelaide prison, to marry and to settle down and begin anew.

2.4. Then there was ABC TV reporter Leigh Sales who in 2007 wrote a book about David Hicks' imprisonment, *Detainee 002: The Case of David Hicks*, published by Melbourne University Press, which began with the official conspiracy theory that the 911 tragedy was done by Arabic-speaking terrorists and that this then began the war on terrorism.

That four days before 911 the UN-sponsored conference at Durban, South Africa, broke up in chaos – and that resulted in the Zionist state of Israel being branded a 'terrorist state' does not receive a mention in Sales' book. That post 911 the Islamic religion, the world of Islam, is branded a terrorist world, which now becomes the new dialectic that premises world events, is also not specifically mentioned by Sales in her book, though allusions to it are numerous.

What the western media did not spell out at this time is that the Durban blemish on Israel is wiped clean and the Jewish state becomes again a 'haven of democracy', the only 'democracy' in the Middle East. To this day such blatant lies continue to fuel the fading >war on terrorism< dialectic, though just today in Australia's federal parliament both the prime minister and the leader of the opposition have renewed their pledge to support the war in Afghanistan.

Yesterday news reports claimed a new sighting of Osama bin Laden was made – and so the spin of lies continues in the western media.

2.5. The next fact that caused me to wonder about the authenticity of the book is that in early 2005 a new legal team was installed shortly before Hicks' release from Guantanamo and return to Adelaide. Why lawyer Steve Kenny, who acted pro bono for Hicks was removed was never publicly explained, at least I still don't know why. Hicks claims David McLeod and Michael Griffin, among other things, knew more about international law – p.340. The new team was an establishment team, members of which had military experience. This reminded me of what happened when the Germar Rudolf's case changed its legal team from Mannheim to Munich and settled on a maximum of 42 months prison, a rather light sentence if compared to Ernst Zündel's five years and Horst Mahler's, Sylvia Stolz's, Wolfgang Fröhlich's and Gerd Honsik's much longer sentences received and who had all remained with their trusted traditional legal defence teams.

2.6. The final matter that indicated to me Hicks had become a political football for world politics is the fact that his guilty plea enabled Guantanamo legal precedent to flow into the Australian legal system. Admittedly, the matter has not been tested in Australia's High Court, but at least basic terrorism legislation has now its Australian precedent and only an arduous walk to Canberra's High Court would possibly upset it. I draw parallels with my 1 October 2008 London arrest on a European Arrest Warrant as initiated by Germany, which was ultimately rejected by a British court and then not tested in an appeal because the British government advised the German government that an appeal would fail. That today anti-Afghanistan war MP Andrew Wilkie, in Federal Parliament read out a list of dead Australian soldiers to an empty House of Representatives speaks for itself. Wilkie's call for a withdrawal of Australian troops has been rejected by Prime Minister Julia Gillard who has committed Australia's forces to Afghanistan for another decade.

3. David Hicks: *Guantanamo my journey*

'You will see that I am not, and have never been, a supporter of terrorism. I am not a public threat. I did not harm anyone – I never attempted or planned to – nor was I accused of such. And I did not break any Australian, US or international laws. I hope you find that this book is not only a story of injustice, but also a story of hope.'

When I read the sentence: 'I obsess about where I am being taken, and for what reason.' I knew my initial reaction to this book were accurate. Still, the first two chapters are well written where details of David's early life are sketched, especially his fathering two children: 'I attended both my children's births, awed at their entry into this world.'

This rings true because any father who has witnessed the birth of his baby can never again see the mother of his child as a mere object of pleasure. It would certainly have influenced David's quest for the hunting beast, to seek adventure beyond family responsibility.

His overseas quest lands him in Albania, then Kosovo, and back to Adelaide in 1999. Basic routine at home causes him to set off to Kashmir. Details abound in this narrative, but then again I am jolted by this:

'In the letters I wrote to my family, I see a young person who is poorly educated and un-researched – insufficiently informed and ill-prepared for his location, company and activities. I was impressionable, naive and, on occasion, full of bravado and exaggeration. To read those letters today makes me cringe. They are regrettable and embarrassing and, looking back over a decade ago, I do not recognise the author...today I am older and, I hope, wiser.' – p.121-2.

Does such 're-canting' indicate David Hicks has become an unprincipled man?

He witnessed 911 in Pakistan:

'I didn't know what to think as I watched the horrific events of September 11 unfold. I couldn't believe my eyes; I was in shock as I watched the Twin Towers and Building Seven fall in on themselves.' – p.148.

When Mrs Olga Scully, Randulf Johansen and I watched this event in Oslo while enjoying coffee at a restaurant, I don't recall anything about Building Seven, but I do recall us agreeing that this is a controlled demolition.

David Hicks' imminent arrest ends Part One of the book. Part Two, chapters 15 to 30, all are preceded by quotations that contextualise the contents of each chapter, for example in Chapter 15 there is a quotation from the Geneva Convention, and Chapter 16 features George W Bush's 28 January 2002 statement: 'They will not be treated as prisoners of war. They are illegal combatants'. For just \$5000. Hicks was sold to the US forces and his Guantanamo journey began.

Hicks in some detail recounts his trip to Guantanamo Bay, and I am reminded how both Germar Rudolf and Ernst Zündel were flown from their US and Canadian prison respectively to a German prison and what such trips cost – all in the service of legally nailing someone down so that a legal aim is secured. In Hick's case it was a voice booming over a megaphone:

'You are now the property of the US Marine Corps. You have reached your final destination. Welcome to Cuba.' – p.211.

What follows, especially after p. 283 is an account of David Hicks' detailed treatment at Guantanamo with the false confessions extracted under torture. It all rings true. I recall when the German fighting force unconditionally surrendered in 1945 countless German individuals suffered even more than what Guantanamo inmates suffered. Just to mention one, there was Rudolf Höss, commandant of Auschwitz who was

forced to sign his confession in English, though he did not speak the language!

David Hicks was ultimately charged with attempted murder and providing material support for terrorism, and Major Mori informed Hicks that then Prime Minister John Howard would not let Hicks return to Australia without Hicks pleading guilty to this charge – p.382.

The attempted murder charge was dropped and Hicks was promised he could serve out his seven months in an Adelaide prison, but he faced an agonising time before agreeing to this 'Alford Plea':

'To say I was guilty was to give in to Howard and show him that all the unconscionable deference he had shown the US government had been the correct policy ... I pleaded guilty without accepting guilt to the charge so I could return home ... I had to waive all rights to appeal or 'collaterally challenge' the conviction. I also had to acknowledge that the US has the right to arrest me as an Unlawful Enemy Combatant if I ever leave Australia again. These are just some of the injustices I had to agree to, though there are others ... I had to sign more forms, this time for the Australian government, stating that everything I had said and done regarding the plea deal was voluntary and that competent lawyers had advised me and I fully understood all the consequences. I was told I had no choice because if I refused to sign these new extra documents the Australian government would not take me'. – p.386-90.

When David arrived at Adelaide's Yatala Prison he soon felt comfortable in G Division, as I had done after spending just a week there in August last year. And when he was released therefrom seven months later ... but now that's where the reader has to get the book and read it to the end. It is in such passages that I hear David Hick's authentic voice, the poet who inadvertently became a some-time freedom fighter-terrorist.

Fredrick Töben comments: My thoughts are also with Mamdouh Habib and his family. It is hoped he, too, will also safely return to them in Australia



In Adelaide on 17 March 2004, St Patrick's Day, Dr Fredrick Töben and Major Michael Mori facing the camera with a smile!

4. Conclusion: Some Background Information from the Adelaide Institute Archive

David Hicks's US-appointed lawyer, Major Mori, visited Adelaide a couple of times, and I had the opportunity to meet with Mori and discuss aspects of the defence strategy he was employing on behalf of Hicks. It was refreshing to note that Mori's stance was so contrary to what the Australian and world media was shouting into the world about Hicks.

A 2003 newspaper article reflects the Howard government's shameful political attitude:

Australia Won't Fight for Detainees. By JAMIE TARABAY, Associated Press Writer, March 12, 2003

SYDNEY, Australia - Two Australians are being held without charge by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay. But their government says it can't and won't bring them back for trial —

even though citizens of other countries have been sent home from the prison camp.

Denmark and Britain, like Australia, are partners in the U.S.-led war on terror, and have successfully applied to the United States for the return of their nationals — six of some 660 detainees from 44 countries held at the base in eastern Cuba. All five British suspects were set free after arriving this week, as was the Dane. But Australia has resisted calls from local politicians and relatives of the two men — David Hicks and Mamdoub Habib — to do the same.

The government says it can't put them on trial here because current anti-terror laws were not on Australia's statute books at the time of their capture. That has enraged Hicks' family in the southern Australian city of Adelaide. "You hear the British demanding their people back, and they're negotiating," Hicks' father Terry said recently. "*So what I'd like to know is: What the hell has the Australian government been doing?*"

So far, neither Hicks nor Habib has been charged. And, only Hicks has been slated to stand before an American military tribunal. He's also one of only two Guantanamo Bay inmates to have been appointed a lawyer by the Pentagon.

Hicks' U.S. military attorney Maj. Michael Mori, who is in Australia this week to generate support for his client, fears that process will not deliver justice. "*He's facing a process that's stacked against him,*" Mori told Australia's Sky News.

Like Britain, Australia is one of America's closest allies and committed troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. Last year, President Bush lauded Australia as Washington's "sheriff" in the Asia-Pacific region. Australian Prime Minister John Howard repeatedly has said he's happy to let the U.S. military justice system deal with Hicks and Habib, who are both suspected of having links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Hicks, 28, a former ranchhand and convert to Islam, was captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan in late 2001. Habib, 47, was arrested in Pakistan three weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Both suspects' families deny they are terrorists or affiliated to terror groups.

A year later, on 29 June 2004, there was this report:

The lawyer for an Australian man detained at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base welcomed a US Supreme Court ruling permitting judicial appeals from foreign detainees held as enemy combatants. US Marine Corps defence counsel Major Michael Mori said the ruling meant he was "another step closer to getting David Hicks out of there". Major Mori has said in the past that his client has been denied "fundamental" privileges given to civilians or soldiers facing court-martial. In a letter, Hicks's father Terry called Monday's ruling "a great day for justice, one we did not think could be obtained". Hicks, who comes from Adelaide, is one of two Australians being held at Guantanamo, along with Sydney man Mamdouh Habib.

The US Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision on Monday that the "United States' courts have jurisdiction to consider challenges to the legality of the decision of foreign nationals captured abroad in connection with hostilities and incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay". The case, involving about 600 detainees from 42 countries at Guantanamo, was one of two landmark decisions handed down by the court in the controversy over tactics used by US authorities since launching the 'war on terror' after the September 11 attacks in 2001.

The United States government has charged Hicks with conspiracy to commit war crimes, attempted murder and aiding the enemy. Virtually all the other detainees have been held without charge and access to court.

According to the Centre for Constitutional Rights (CCR), a New York-based interest group which has taken up the case of

Guantanamo detainees, Hicks has spent several months of his confinement in solitary confinement awaiting charges. -- AFP

4.1. 'HICKS A VICTIM OF A ROTTEN SYSTEM'

In 2005 Adelaide Institute's then assistant director, the late Geoffrey Muirden, summed up the Guantanamo Bay matter in the following article, heading it: 'HICKS A VICTIM OF A ROTTEN SYSTEM'. This is Geoff's reflections on a shameful chapter where politicians interfere with legal processes, thereby confirming what is common knowledge in, for example, Iran: 'Everything is politics and everything is religion':

>>In a previous article in *The Independent Australian*, Issue 5, 2005, I compared the Eureka Stockade of 1854 and showed how the death of many of the miners at the Stockade at least led in the long run to democratic reforms. I also showed that now, in this year of 2005, the democratic gains of the Stockade, including such rights, which the Eurekans and their democratic heirs, expected would remain in place, such as trial by jury, innocent until proven guilty, the duty of the State to prove guilt, freedom for arbitrary arrest, and the accountability of government to the citizen, to mention but some of these rights, had now been destroyed. In a mood of Doublethink politicians still use the word "democratic", but it has become an empty, hypocritical symbol used to lull the sheeple into capitulation to the rise of globalism and the extinction of personal freedom. That move towards personal slavery, of which David Hicks, is only one symbol, is continuing to mount, and shows little sign of stopping. As a proponent of civil liberty, naturally I am concerned, as all citizens should be, unless they have been hypnotized into a mood of apathy.

One writer on the Internet, John Wilson, has been very active in seeking to restore the democratic right of trial by jury and expose the collusion of judges in Australia to suppressing what few freedoms citizens may still possess jhwilson@acay.com.au.

He has been subjected to continual act of legal harrasment and insult. John Wilson has maintained that rights and freedoms, including trail by jury, were granted in perpetuity by Magna Charta. In like manner, it could be claimed that the American Founding Fathers established inalienable rights and freedoms when they created the United States, but of course these "inalienable rights" are constantly being "alienated". Wilson is one of the few who have had the persistence and integrity to pursue these measures through courts that make no attempt to protect the citizen by such proclamations as the English Bill of Rights, Magna Charta, or by protections under common law.

On December 3, 2004, David Hicks' father spoke at the 150th Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade, and pointed out that his son had been held without trial by the U.S. Government at Guantanamo Bay and that the Australian government had made no effective attempt to represent one of their citizens and, if he was guilty, repatriate him to Australia for trial. Since then, there has been no improvement in the situation of David Hicks but, as if that were not enough, events have transpired that make him a symbol of the society we are fast becoming: an autocratic society, manipulated by the government call for "anti-terrorist" measures into becoming a Terrorist State, in which the government determines for us what terrorism is and seeks to eliminate the rights of terrorists.

David Hicks now has a website devoted to him <http://www.fairgofordavid.org/> which raises many of the issues. At that site, is the report of U.S. V David Matthew Hicks' "Report of the Independent Legal Observer for the Law Council of Australia" by Lex Lasry, Q.C., July, 2005. His

conclusions are too long to be detailed here, but item #76 in that judgement point out that David Hicks' case is worse, owing to long delays caused by extended litigation and the possibility that, if there is a trial, there will be no cross examination of witnesses by Hicks' lawyer but the prosecution will rely on second hand information and conceal what evidence it may consider necessary. In #77 he mentions that detainees at Guantanamo are excluded from access to US civilian courts with access to any rights under the US Constitution or under international conventions, including the Geneva Convention, of which the US is a signatory. There is the real possibility that prisoners, including Hicks, were tortured at Guantanamo Bay to get a confession, which should morally be excluded as obtained under duress. These considerations also affect other Guantanamo inmates. On the same website, Burton J. Lee III, a former physician to the president to George H.W. Bush and a board member of Physicians for Human Rights, denounces the "stain of torture" at Guantanamo.

As Lasry sums up: "The following criticisms made by others and by me in my first report remain:

- * Lack of independence and apprehension of lack of impartiality, the process being the creation of the Executive of the US government;
- * The Commission will function with two members who are legally unqualified and inexperienced but who will be required to make findings not only of fact but of law;
- * The "rule" of evidence remains unchanged and totally inadequate for the reasons already given;
- * The charges against Hicks remain and arguably represent a misuse of those charges;
- * There remains no viable appellate process that can impartially correct errors and remedy a miscarriage of justice. I would, of course, agree that the Law Council should make further representations to the Australian government with a view to attempting to persuade them to request Hicks' repatriation as they ultimately did with Habib. Under the present structure not only is the Military Commission process unfair but it seems to be unworkable with relevant detainees being released from time to time and a total lack of certainty created by the whole process having been thoroughly bogged down in litigation. Rather than attempt to remedy some of the injustices which are obvious in the process as it stands, the US government appears determined to defend and apply it to those nominated for trial. If the issues raised in Hamdan and other similar cases brought by detainees were brought before the US Supreme Court, it is hard to imagine that they would not find the logic of Judges Robertson and Green difficult to resist after their conclusions in Rasul and Hamdi. But even if the Court were to eventually confirm each of those judgments changes would need to be made to the process to accommodate those findings. As was demonstrated with the CSRT, the implementation is still likely to be open to further challenge in the courts which will mean a further lengthening of an already offensive delay. In any event the present US government approach is to expedite the hearing of the military commission, certainly in relation to the case of David Hicks. The Law Council should urge the Australian government to examine these matters very carefully. This is much less about David Hicks than it is about a grossly unfair process and in many ways Australia's own moral authority is at risk if it continues to condone this process as 'fair and just'"

David Hicks, the Australian imprisoned at the US Base of Guantanamo Bay, will be 30 years old on Monday August 7, 2005. Justice for Hicks and Habib campaigner, Marlene Obeid, said: 'David has been imprisoned and tortured for 3 years and 9 months now. Another birthday in the hellhole of Guantanamo - nothing to be happy about.'

Mr Hicks' Australian solicitor, David McLeod, found in a recent visit to the US Base that his client is losing his eyesight, has severe back problems, and his mental condition is rapidly deteriorating.

The British Government successfully negotiated the release of nine Britons held imprisoned at Guantanamo. Five were released in March 2004, while the last four were released in January 2005. None of these were charged in spite of US Military officials alleging that four of them were trained and involved in military activities in Afghanistan.

A US citizen, Yaser Esam Hamdi, who was captured in similar circumstances to David Hicks was freed in September 2004 after two and a half years imprisoned, and agreeing to renounce his US citizenship and renouncing terrorism.

'It is time for the Australian Government to request David Hicks' repatriation, before it is too late,' Mrs Obeid added. For further information contact Marlene Obeid on 0401 758 871.

David Hicks is a symbol of a system that is increasingly leading to an Orwellian Big Brother State. The events of September 11, 2001, have fostered an attitude suppressing free speech and basic freedoms that a Western heritage had led us to hope might be sacrosanct: freedom from arbitrary arrest, a right to trial by jury, innocent until proven guilty, cross examination of witnesses and an expectation that the accused had to have his guilt proven "beyond reasonable doubt." The sheeple are being brainwashed into accepting gross violations of human rights, including the shooting of a "suspect" Brazilian in London, now known not to have been a terrorist. Sir Ian Blair, the British Police Commissioner, had falsely announced that the killing of Menezes was "directly linked" to terrorism. Some citizens have become "useful idiots", "justifying" the shooting by saying "they were only doing their job." No doubt, by shooting innocent people to "rescue" us from terrorism!

John Pilger's article "The rise of the Democratic Police State" , published August 19, 2005, by www.antiwar.com, among others, depicts the way selective attention is given to targeting Muslims as "the force behind terrorism" in U.K., while at the same time, condoning US terrorism against those in Iraq and Afghanistan. The same pattern is evident in Australia, as Prime Minister Howard follows the lead of Blair and Bush. Blair wanted police state powers in 2001, when he suspended habeas corpus and installed unlimited house arrest without trial. Lord Hoffman said that Blair's attacks on human rights were a greater threat to freedom than terrorism. He might have added that by suspending civil rights the State itself becomes a terrorist.

This is the direction in which we are now headed as "democracy" becomes a sham, existing only in the dictionary. Prime Minister Howard has also encouraged the rush to autocracy by calling for a national ID card and targeting Muslims as the main villains behind "terrorism", conveniently ignoring State Terrorism, seen in Iraq and Afghanistan, supported by the "coalition of the willing", those willing to be dupes of those who would smash freedom once and for all. David Hicks is merely a symbol of what our society is turning into: a totalitarian state.<<